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Raise Pigs



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PORK AND PATRIOTISM

TO WIN THE WAR we need more meat. Pork is the mainstay of the ration of the laboring man and the soldier. The need for increasing the supply of fats is especially great. This can be done more quickly by increasing the number of hogs than in any other manner. Hogs require less labor, equipment, and capital, make greater gains for food fed, and give a quicker turnover of money than any kind of live stock except poultry. Pork products have the further advantage of being easily transported. Everyone who can—those on farms and also in the small towns or suburbs where space is available—should raise one or more pigs and thus furnish the meat supply for a soldier. Much assistance in doing this may be obtained from the publications of the United States Department of Agriculture.

GOOD BUSINESS

No branch of live-stock farming gives better results than the raising of well-bred swine when conducted with a reasonable amount of intelligence. The yearly sales should be from two to four times the amount of the investment. "Swine Management" (Farmers' Bulletin 874) and "Feeding Hogs in the South" (Farmers' Bulletin 411), publications of the United States Department of Agriculture, give full directions for raising pork—the number of hogs that should be raised on a given number of acres, the prevention and treatment of disease, the destruction of vermin, and much other information.

As a consumer of by-products the hog has no rival, which is an additional reason for pork raising now, when the elimination of waste is an emphatic necessity. There is ample evidence that where table scraps form a part or all of the pig's diet the gains cost considerably less than the gains made by grain-fed animals.

Garbage

Consumers

Breeds

There is no "best" breed of swine. Some breeds are superior to others in certain respects, and one breed may be better adapted than another to certain local conditions. There are two distinct types, the lard type and the bacon type. Swine of the lard type far outnumber those of the bacon type in the United States. Information concerning the various breeds of swine, their origin, general appearance, development, and adaptability, is given in "Breeds of Swine" (Farmers' Bulletin 765).

EQUIPMENT AND LABOR

Although hogs require less expensive equipment than other kinds of live stock.

Houses proper housing is an important factor in success. "Movable Hog Houses" (Office of the Secretary, Circular 102) explains the advantage of the colony or movable house and gives details of construction with bill of materials for both



the box-shaped and the A-shaped house. "Hog Houses" (Farmers' Bulletin 438) will be found helpful also.

LABOR SAVERS

With the ingredients of a good ration constantly before them, placed so that they may eat at will, hogs will make gains more rapidly and more economically than when fed by hand. The self-feeder is growing in popularity. It is simply a device by means of which a supply of grain or other feed is kept constantly available to the hogs, in order that they may always satisfy the craving of their appetites with respect to the kind and amount of feed. "The Self-Feeder for Hogs" (Farmers' Bulletin 906) explains the advantages of the self-feeder and gives bill of materials necessary for its construction.

The growing scarcity of farm labor is making it necessary to adopt systems of farming which will eliminate a part of the work required at rush seasons. Such a system is carefully described in "A Corn-Belt Farming System which Saves Harvest Labor by Hogging Down Crops" (Farmers' Bulletin 614).

PORK GROWERS' PLAGUES

Hog Cholera and Tuberculosis The Federal Government and the State authorities aim at the ultimate eradication of hog cholera. At present the object is to bring it under strict control so as to reduce losses to the minimum. Prevention, however, is better than cure. Methods for prevention as well as cure may be found in "Hog Cholera: Prevention and Treatment" (Farmers' Bulletin 834).

Losses from tuberculosis may be serious also, and in order to be forewarned and forearmed, "Tuberculosis of Hogs" (Farmers' Bulletin 781) should be studied.

"SOLDIERS OF THE COMMISSARY"

By means of the boys' pig clubs thousands of boys too young to enlist are being instructed in hog raising and by this means are helping to produce a very important food for the Army and Navy. A

Boys' Pig Club good general account of this work may be found in
Work "Pig Clubs and the Swine Industry" (Yearbook 1917, Separate 753). Your county agent, club leader, or director of extension work at the State agricultural college will tell you of the work in your own State and how to join a club. The Department wants 200,000 boys to raise pigs—40,000 are already doing it. If you live in the country, the small town, or the suburbs of a city, you can do it too, and thereby become a soldier of the commissary.

HOW TO GET INFORMATION

All the Farmers' Bulletins mentioned in this text are available for free distribution and may be obtained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The States have also published much excellent material on the subject of hog raising. An inquiry about hogs addressed to your State agricultural college will bring you information on what has been issued by your own State. Your county agent can supplement the printed advice by suggestions as to the adaptation of directions to your local conditions.

Teachers of agriculture will find useful "Lessons on Pork Production for Elementary Rural Schools" (Department Bulletin 646). There are also excellent books on hog raising, some of which it would be well to read. Ask at your public library for some of the following, suggested by the American Library Association's Food Information Committee: Coburn's "Swine in America; a Textbook for the Breeder, Feeder, and Student" (Orange Judd Co., \$2.50); Dietrich's "Swine; Breeding, Feeding, and Management" (Sanders Publishing Co., Chicago, \$1.50); Day's "Productive Swine Husbandry" (Lippincott, \$1.50); Dawson's "The Hog Book" (Breeder's Gazette, Chicago, \$1.50), a treatise on the practical handling of swine based on fifty years' experience in the corn belt. Lack of space makes it impossible to mention many other good books on pig raising, including all those on specialized phases of the subject.

THE MEAT LINE IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE BATTLE LINE